

Amendments to the Drawings:

The drawing sheets attached in connection with the above-identified application containing Figures 18-20, 22(a-c), 29, and 30 are being presented as a new formal drawing sheets to be substituted for the previously submitted drawing sheet or sheets. The drawing Figures 19, 20, 22(a-c), and 29 have been amended. Appended to this amendment are annotated copies of the previous drawing sheets which have been marked to show changes presented in the replacement sheets of the drawings.

The specific changes which have been made to Figures 19, 20, 22(a-c), and 29 are to add "Prior Art" label to the figures.

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Claims 2-5, 8, and 9 have been cancelled.

This amendment adds, changes and/or deletes claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

After amending the claims as set forth above, claims 1, 6, 7, and 10-15 are now pending in this application.

Drawing Objection

Figures 19, 20, 22(a-c) and 29 stand objected to. These figures have been amended to overcome the objection. Withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 4 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. Claims 4 and 5 have been cancelled. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. The claims have been amended to overcome these rejections. Withdrawal of these rejections is respectfully requested.

Prior Art Rejections

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by JP 2002-206977. Claims 2-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP 2002-206978 in view of JP 2002-206977. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claims 2-5, 8, and 9 have been cancelled. Applicant submits that JP 2002-206977 and JP 2002-206978, which were both published on July 26, 2002, are not prior art for claims 1, 6, and 7 because these claims are entitled to the priority date of provisional application 60/394,815, which was filed on July 10, 2002. The present application is a Continuation-In-Part of U.S. Application No. 10/604,319, which claims the benefit of 60/394,815. A copy of provisional application 60/394,815 is attached to this response for the Examiner's convenience.

Applicant submits that claims 1, 6, and 7 are entitled to the priority date of provisional application 60/394,815 because claims 1, 6, and 7 have support in the disclosure of provisional application 60/394,815. For example, claim 1 has support in 60/394,815 at page 5, line 25, to page 7, line 28, and in the figures of 60/394,815. In another example, claim 6 has support in 60/394,815 at page 5, line 25, to page 7, line 28, and in Figures 13b and 14b, which show housing 104 of the proximity or displacement sensor 122 overlaying anchor plate 102 and carriage 106. Figures 13b and 14b also show anchor plate 102 and carriage 106 as being in the same plane. In a further example, the features of claim 7 are shown in Figures 13b and 14b.

Because claims 1, 6, and 7 benefit from the priority date of provisional application 60/394,815, JP 2002-206977 and JP 2002-206978 are not prior art for claims 1, 6, and 7. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for the allowance of claims 10-15.

Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment,

to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check or credit card payment form being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

Date 8/22/06

FOLEY & LARDNER LLP
Customer Number: 22428
Telephone: (202) 672-5582
Facsimile: (202) 672-5399

By 

Howard N. Shipley
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 39,370

Title: SEAT BELT DEVICE
 Inventor(s): James G. STANLEY et al.
 Appl. No.: 10/743,472
 ANNOTATED SHEET

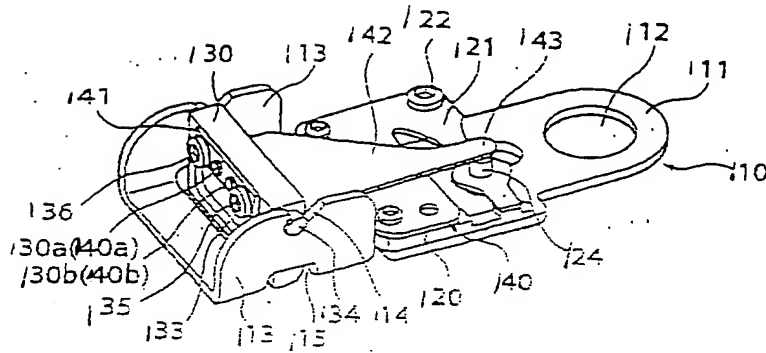


Fig. 18

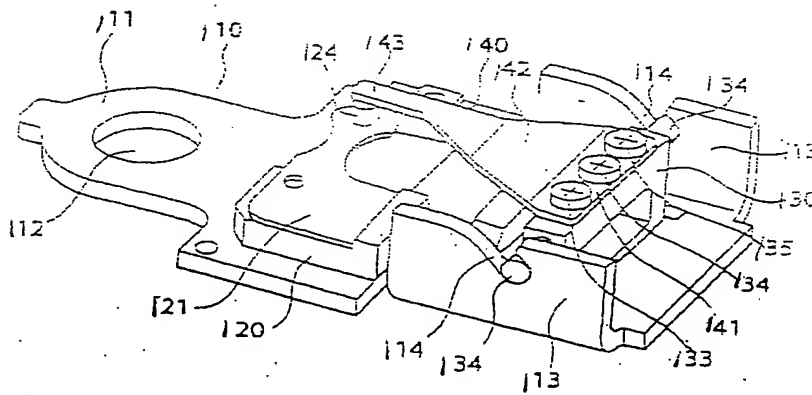


Fig. 20

PRIOR ART ← ADDED

Title: SEAT BELT DEVICE
 Inventor(s): James G. STANLEY et al.
 Appl. No.: 10/743,472
 ANNOTATED SHEET

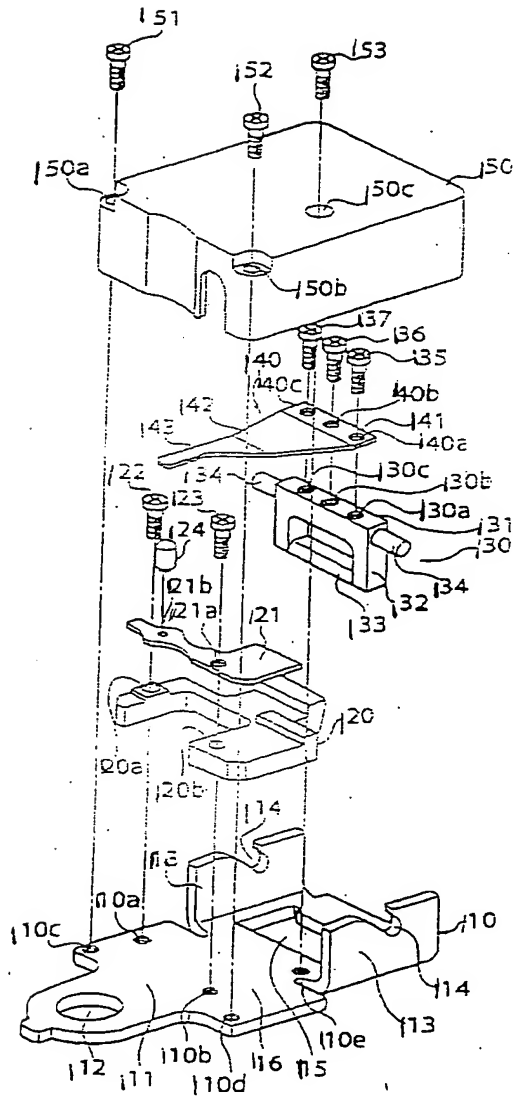


Fig. 19

PRIOR ART

ADDED

Title: SEAT BELT DEVICE
Inventor(s): James G. STANLEY et al.
Appl. No.: 10/743,472
ANNOTATED SHEET

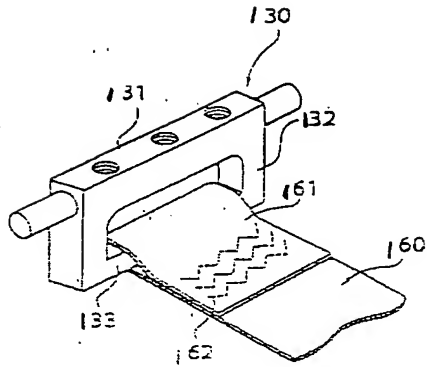


Fig. 22(a) ← ADDED
PRIOR ART

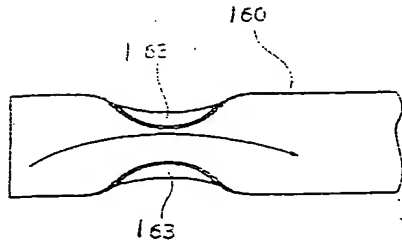


Fig. 22(b) ← ADDED
PRIOR ART

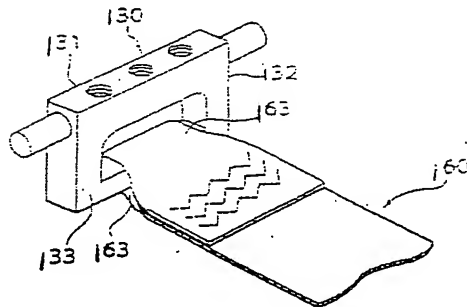


Fig. 22(c) ← ADDED
PRIOR ART

Title: SEAT BELT DEVICE
 Inventor(s): James G. STANLEY et al.
 Appl. No.: 10/743,472
 ANNOTATED SHEET

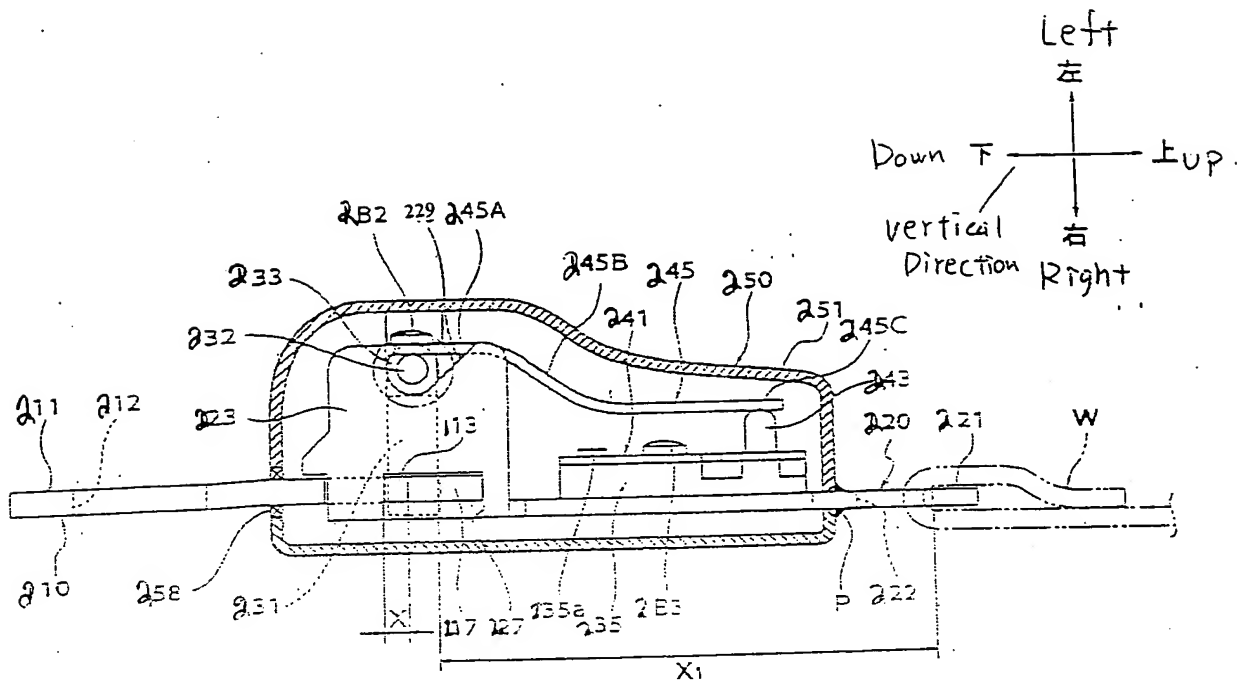


Fig. 29
 PRIOR ART

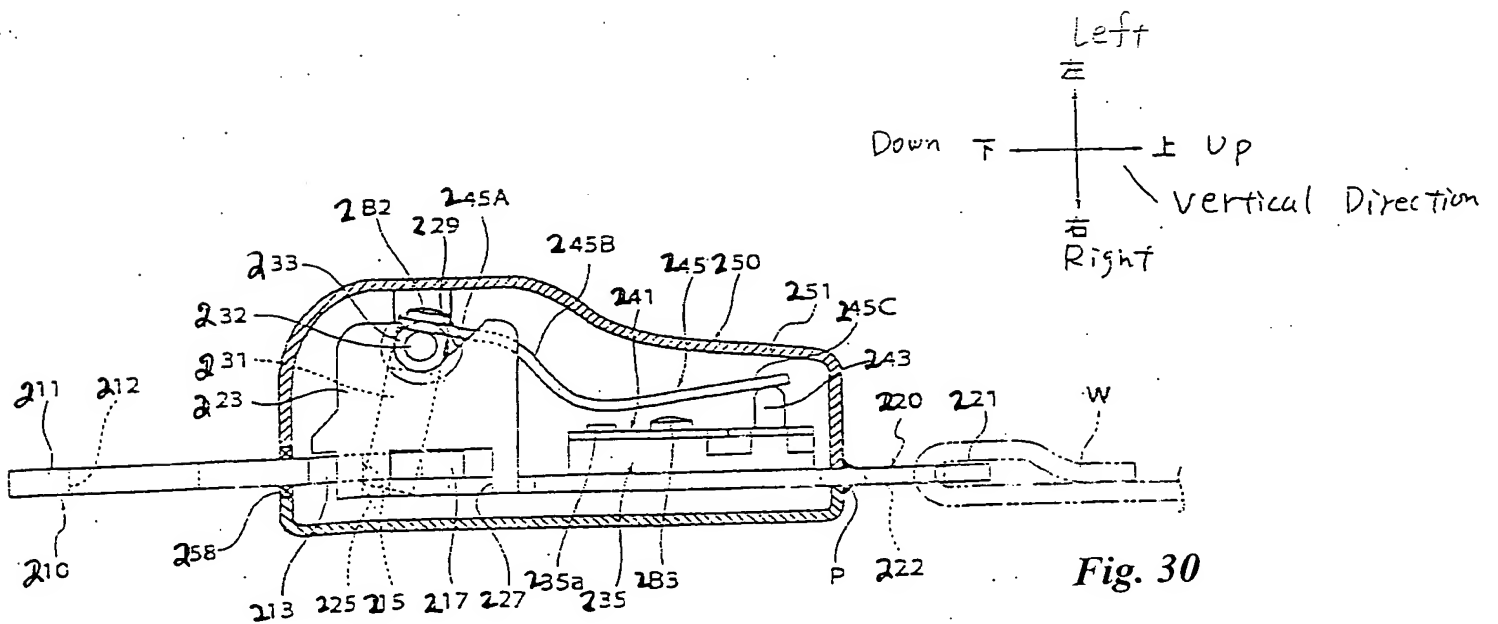


Fig. 30

PRIOR ART